

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Applicants submit corrected formal Figs. 15 and 24-27, as approved by the examiner, namely changing "181" to --185-- in Fig. 15, adding the legend --Prior Art-- in Figs. 24-27, and deleting sheet 16. In this respect, applicants submit an appended sheet with the writing "DELETE THIS SHEET."

The specification has been amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner. Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-17, and 19-26 have been amended to improve their form, readability, and clarity. No new matter has been introduced.

Requirement of Substitute Specification

The examiner required a substitute specification because applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment that made changes to the specification. Applicants traverse this requirement because the present application is a § 371 national stage application rather than an application filed under Rule 53(b). A preliminary amendment filed upon the entry of the national stage of an international application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 is not part of the original disclosure because the filing date of the national stage application is treated as the international filing date and not the national stage entry date. See *Revised Procedure for Preliminary Amendments Presented on Filing of a Patent Application Official Gazette Notices*, 08 November 2005. Accordingly a substitute specification is not needed, especially where the specification merely makes a single typographical correction.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (1st and 2nd paragraphs) primarily because the claims appear to be a direct or literal translation of non-English language (PCT application). Applicants submit that the present editorial revision to the claims obviates all § 112 rejections.

Applicants, however, traverse the examiner's objection to the use of the term "substantially" because this term is widely recognized and accepted by the USPTO as being definite. See MPEP § 2173.05(b). Indeed, the USPTO issued more than 850,000 patents

(including 9 patents issued by the examiner's SPE James W. Myhre, based on the USPTO's online search engine) that contain the term "substantially" in the claims.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-27 were indicated to be allowable if all objections and rejections are overcome. No art rejection has been applied. Applicants submit that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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17 OCTOBER 2006

DATE

/Lyle Kimms/

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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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